

ALASKANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Alaskans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Alaska. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Alaska.

INCOME: ALASKANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Alaska was \$60,056.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Alaska was \$56,398, a significant drop of 6.1 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN ALASKA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Alaska had 116,000 adults without insurance (18.5 percent).³
- In 2005, Alaska had 117,000 adults without insurance (17.7 percent).⁴
- Alaska had 22,322 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵ If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, Alaska will face a funding shortfall of \$8,930,000.⁶

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN ALASKA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Alaska was \$8,386.⁷ In 2005, it was \$9,936, an 18 percent increase.⁸
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Alaska was \$14,378.⁹ In 2005, it was \$21,523, a 49 percent increase.¹⁰
- Number of Alaskans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 13,636.¹¹
- Number of Alaskans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 8,389.¹²

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR ALASKA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Alaska was \$1.664 a gallon.¹³
- Today the average cost of gas in Alaska is \$2.964 a gallon.¹⁴
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Alaska was \$2,153.¹⁵
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Alaska is \$3,835, \$1,682 (78.1 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁶

SOCIAL SECURITY: ALASKANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Alaska – 63,440.¹⁷
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Alaska – \$818.¹⁸

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: ALASKANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Alaskans killed in Iraq – 10¹⁹
- Number of Alaskans wounded in Iraq – 70²⁰
- Number of Alaskans wounded in Afghanistan – 14²¹
- Number of Veterans in Alaska – 67,299²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING ALASKA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 19 estates in Alaska paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 6 estates in Alaska will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN ALASKA IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Alaska per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 566.9²⁵
- Number of Violent Crimes in Alaska per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 631.9²⁶

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST ALASKANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Alaskans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Alaska residents each received an average of \$2,201 in tax cuts, while middle class Alaska residents received only \$474.²⁷
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Alaska residents will receive an average of \$24,453 in tax cuts, while middle class Alaska residents will only receive \$948.²⁸
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Alaska residents will each receive an average of \$42,970 in tax cuts, while middle class Alaska residents will only receive \$963.²⁹

The richest Alaskans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Alaskans received 4.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 20 percent of the tax cut.³⁰
- But, in 2006, the richest Alaskan will get 16.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.2 percent of the tax cut.³¹
- And, in 2010, the richest Alaskans will get 29.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.7 percent of the tax cut.³²

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Alaskans.

- In 2010, the richest Alaskans will receive an average of \$7,866 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Alaskans will be getting 38.3 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³³
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Alaskans will receive an average of \$63 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 5.7 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁴

SOURCES

- 1: US Census Bureau
- 2: US Census Bureau
- 3: US Census Bureau, *Health Insurance Coverage: 2001*.
[\[http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html\]](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html)
- 4: Bureau of Labor Statistics / Bureau of the Census Current Population Survey, 3/06.
[\[http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm\]](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm)
- 5: Congressional Research Service, *SCHIP: A Brief Overview*, 9/21/06.
- 6: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *SCHIP Finance Update*, 9/21/06.
- 7: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 8: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 9: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 10: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 11: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 12: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 13: Federal Highway Administration [\[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/mmfr/jan01/mfr50101.htm\]](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/mmfr/jan01/mfr50101.htm)
- 14: *Fuel Gauge Report*, 9/25/06
- 15: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 16: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 17: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[\[http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.html\]](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.html)
- 18: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[\[http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.html\]](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.html)
- 19: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 20: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 21: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 22: House Democratic Leader. [\[http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc\]](http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc)
- 23: United for a Fair Economy [\[www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html\]](http://www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html). This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
- 24: Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics.
[\[http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StatebyState.cfm%20\]](http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StatebyState.cfm%20)
- 25: FBI, *Crime in the US 2005*. [\[http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_05.html\]](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_05.html)
- 26: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf)
- 27: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf)
- 28: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf)
- 29: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf)

30: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

31: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

32: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

33: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05 Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

